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## **MONTANA JUDICIAL BRANCH**

### ***Drug Treatment Courts***

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- Drug courts are separate court dockets specifically designed to help adult and juvenile offenders with drug or alcohol issues become productive, law abiding citizens. Family drug courts provide a similar docket to parents and children involved in the child protection system. Currently, Montana has 30 drug court dockets with 16 drug courts funded all, or in part, through general fund dollars. Drug Courts first received general fund dollars from the 2007 Legislature. Other courts are funded with a combination of local dollars or federal grant dollars.
- Funding for each court pays for a coordinator and some ancillary services such as drug testing or treatment services. A successful drug court is highly reliant on partnerships with social service and correction entities to pay for treatment and monitoring services.
- The FY2016 budget for drug courts is:
  - \$1,227,041 general fund
  - \$61,211 state special revenue (fees)The FY2017 budget for drug courts is:
  - \$1,250,781 general fund
  - \$61,211 state special revenue (fees)
- Extensive research and evaluations of Montana courts support the drug court approach as an effective tool for offenders with drug and alcohol problems. Montana drug courts are based on national standards for drug courts developed through extensive research.
- Drug Courts in Montana must start with local or federal funding and prove success before any request will be made for general fund. Montana has 500 plus drug court participants at any given time.
- The Judicial Branch finished development of a strategic plan for drug courts in the fall of 2015. This document, as well as extensive information about drug courts, including the biennial statistical report is available at the treatment court page of [montanacourts.org](http://montanacourts.org)